

**Special Education** is a service provided by Local Education Agencies (LEA) to children with disabilities to meet their unique learning needs. The special education process ensures that all children and youth with disabilities, ages 3-21, receive a free and appropriate education.

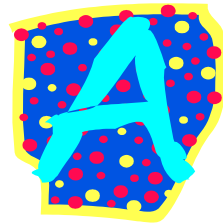


**Admissions and Release Committee (ARC)** may be composed of :

- ❑ Parent(s)
- ❑ General education teacher
- ❑ Special education teacher
- ❑ Representative of the local educational agency (LEA)
- ❑ Evaluator who is knowledgeable about the suspected disability
- ❑ Student when appropriate
- ❑ Others.

All decisions regarding the special education process are determined by the ARC.

**Referral** for evaluation is the first step in determining if a student has a disability, if the disability has an adverse affect on education, and if there is a need for specially designed instruction.



**Evaluation** is a process of gathering information from a variety of sources, in all areas related to the suspected disability, on which to base educational decisions. The ARC plans the evaluation.

**Initial evaluation** is administered after the plan for evaluation is completed, based on the referral, after parent permission is signed, and within sixty school days after permission is given.

**Eligibility** is determined by the ARC upon completion of the evaluation. The ARC shall use the information to determine whether a disability exists in one or more of the eligibility categories. In order to receive

services, there must be an adverse effect to the extent that specially designed instruction is required.

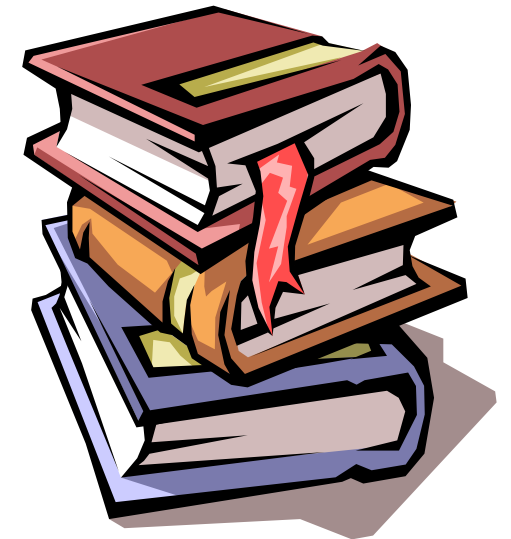
The Kentucky eligibility categories are:

- ❑ **Autism**
- ❑ **Communication**
- ❑ **Deaf-blindness**
- ❑ **Hearing impairment including deafness**
- ❑ **Mental disability (mild or functional)**
- ❑ **Orthopedic impairment**
- ❑ **Multiple disabilities**
- ❑ **Other health impairment**
- ❑ **Emotional-behavioral disabilities**
- ❑ **Specific learning disabilities**
- ❑ **Developmental delay**
- ❑ **Visual impairment including blindness**
- ❑ **Traumatic brain injuries**

The **Individual Education Program (IEP)** is a written plan for a child with a disability that is developed, reviewed and revised in accordance with 707 Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) 1:320.

The IEP contains the following components:

- ❑ Present Level of Educational Performance
- ❑ Annual goals, Benchmarks/ Objectives
- ❑ Special education and related services
- ❑ Participation with non-disabled children
- ❑ Participation in state and district-wide tests



**Annual Review** by the ARC must be conducted no less than once a year to determine if your child is making progress and must revise or rewrite the IEP for the coming school year.

**Special factors** the ARC must consider:

- ❑ Behavior concerns;
- ❑ Language/ Limited English Proficiency;
- ❑ Communication needs;
- ❑ Vision and hearing;
- ❑ Assistive Technology;
- ❑ Support services; and
- ❑ Program modification.

**Data** is collected throughout the school year to determine if progress is being made on the annual goals.

A parent shall be informed of their child's progress toward annual goals--the extent to which progress is sufficient to enable the child to achieve the goals by the end of the year. Each district must make a "good faith effort" to assist the child to achieve the goals and objectives listed in the IEP.

**Reevaluation** occurs at least every three years, unless, after review of the existing data, the ARC determines no formal reevaluation is

necessary to determine whether a child continues to be a child with a disability, or unless a parent requests a reevaluation.

**No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 (NCLB) and Kentucky SB 168**

requires consideration of all diverse learners. All students with unique learning needs should be afforded appropriate learning opportunities with an emphasis on reading and math. Instructional practices are documented for all students.

**If you have any questions about special education in Kentucky or your child's education please talk to your principal, school counselor, or the director of special education for your school district or call the Exceptional Children Services at 502-564-4970**

Printed with federal funds.  
Kentucky Department of Education  
Exceptional Children Services  
February 2004  
jsr

## Special Education in Kentucky



**“All Means All”**